A final view on the detailed territorial jurisdiction of new zones has not yet been taken.

(d) and (e) A representation has been received for attaching Kota Division to North-Western Zone. A final view on the detailed territorial jurisdiction of new zones has not yet been taken.

[English]

Insufficient Facilities to Passengers

4137. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that trains running in Orissa have no arrangements of potable water and electric fans and as a result thereof it cause great difficulties to passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) All trains passing through Orissa are having facility of electric fans. Adequate drinking water arrangements are also made at the platforms/stations for the passengers travelling in the trains over Indian Railways including in the State of Orissa. The arrangements are suitably augmented during the summer season when the demand for drinking water substantially goes up.

Funds for Expansion of Telephone

4138. SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY :Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to have separate budget/targets for Telephone expansion in rural areas and delink it with combined allocation of funds/targets for a particular Telecom district/zone/State;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware that budgetory allocation and target for a particular area are used by and large in urban/semi urban areas and rural areas are neglected; and

(e) the percentage of the target achieved in rural areas during each of the last three financial years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Funds are already being separately allocated for rural areas in the plan proposals. However, targets are set for urban and rural areas combined except for village public telephones (VPYs) for which targets are separately earmarked.

(b) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

(c) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

(d) Some allocation for rural area has been utilised in general area which includes urban area.

(e) The achievements of VPT are as follows :

Year	Achievement
1993-94	70%
1994-95	95%
1995-96	30%

Procurement of Biscuits for Sale

4139. SHRI I.D. SWAMI :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway (DRM Delhi) invited tenders for procurement of biscuits for sale by its catering departments only from the five biscuit companies and not from the whole biscuit industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of the above five biscuit companies; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such irregularities and bring to book the officials involved in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Procurement of supplies of proprietory items is done by the Railways from the manufacturers of the reputed brands.

(b) Keeping in view the quality, reputation and popularity of brands the railway administration short listed following Companies for procurement of supplies :

M/s Britania Industries Ltd.

M/s Parle Biscuits Ltd.

M/s Cremica Agro Foods Ltd.

M/s Smith-Kline Beecham Consumers Health Care Products.

M/s Bakeman's Industries Pvt. Ltd.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

STD/PCO Allotted in Sonipat

4140. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the District Telecommunication Engineer, District Sonipat-Haryana has allotted STD/PCO arbitrarily without constituting a committee despite directives issued in this regard by his Ministry;